

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 250

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 10 (legislative day, AUGUST 8), 1994

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress in support of efforts by the Government of Mexico, and the major political parties and concerned members of civic society in Mexico, to reform Mexico's political and electoral processes and ensure free and fair elections.

Whereas the United States and Mexico share a common border;

Whereas the people of the United States and the people of Mexico have extensive cultural and historical ties that bind together families and communities across national boundaries;

Whereas a close relationship between the United States and Mexico, based on mutual respect and understanding, is important to the people of both nations;

Whereas the North American Free Trade Agreement, which is designed to increase trade, promote expanded economic activity, and enhance cooperation on issues of mutual interest among the United States, Canada, and Mexico, entered into force on January 1, 1994;

Whereas the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement presents new opportunities for an even closer relationship among the United States, Canada and Mexico;

Whereas this relationship will be furthered by free and fair elections in Mexico on August 21, 1994;

Whereas Mexican leaders from across the political spectrum and representatives of civic society recognized the need for political and electoral reform and have taken steps to achieve these goals;

Whereas recent reforms being implemented in Mexico seek to overcome previous assertions of electoral irregularities which have been highlighted by civil demonstrations and political unrest;

Whereas in January 1994, Mexico's major political parties joined together in an agreement, known as the Agreement for Peace, Democracy, and Justice, designed to reform Mexico's electoral system and to establish procedures for free and fair elections;

Whereas the Federal Electoral Institute has invited representatives of the United Nations to provide technical assistance and financing to domestic Mexican election ob-

servers who request this support to help foster their independence, nonpartisanship, and objectivity; and

Whereas the spirit of the North American Free Trade Agreement facilitates cooperation in achieving high standards of democracy: Now, therefore be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) expresses its support for efforts undertaken
4 by the Government of Mexico, the major political
5 parties, and civic groups to reform Mexico's political
6 and electoral processes and for their ongoing efforts
7 to ensure free and fair elections;

8 (2) welcomes steps taken in recent months by
9 the Mexican Government and the nation's political
10 parties to increase the impartiality of the Federal
11 electoral authorities, review the accuracy of the voter
12 registry list, ensure fair media access, and reform
13 campaign finance practices, in accordance with the
14 commitments enumerated in the January 1994
15 Agreement for Peace, Democracy, and Justice, and
16 encourages continued progress on electoral reform;

17 (3) applauds the invitation extended by the
18 Government of Mexico, with the concurrence of the
19 major political parties and concerned members of
20 civic society, to representatives of the United Na-
21 tions to provide technical assistance and financing to

1 domestic Mexican election observers, and encourages
2 representatives of the United Nations to work closely
3 and directly with Mexican observers during the elec-
4 toral process;

5 (4) takes note of the efforts of the Mexican do-
6 mestic observer groups to encourage citizen partici-
7 pation throughout the electoral process and to con-
8 tribute to the success of this process by serving as
9 monitors during the August 21, 1994, presidential
10 and congressional elections;

11 (5) welcomes the opportunity made available by
12 the Mexican Congress for international visitors to be
13 present during and to witness such elections; and

14 (6) expresses the hope that the efforts of the
15 Government of Mexico, the major political parties,
16 and concerned members of civic society to reform
17 the electoral process will be successful, and lead to
18 elections that are accepted by all parties as fair and
19 valid.

Passed the House of Representatives August 8,
1994.

Attest: DONNALD K. ANDERSON,
Clerk.